

The *Earl* of STRAFFORD's
S P E E C H

To The High & Mighty *To the States*
States of Holland,

In Her Majesty of *Great Britain's* Name, and
concerning the *French* King, on the Peace.

THE Deputies of their High Mightinesses being with the E. of Strafford at his own House, his Excellency first of all assur'd the said Deputies, in very obliging Terms, that he never was more pleas'd with being here, and with meeting the said Deputies than on this Occasion, as wishing nothing more than to see the antient Friendship and good Correspondence between her Majesty and this State reviv'd, and flattering himself, that as he was charg'd with Orders and Instructions from her Majesty, which tended to procure a good Peace for all Europe, and the firm Security and Augmentation of this State, so a good, solid and lasting Friendship and Correspondence might thereby be established between her Majesty and her Successors and this State. He added, That he could not forbear saying, he well wished the Love of War and the private Interests of some Persons had never given Occasion for a Coldness in that Friendship which might have proved fatal to this State, and may yet prove so, if the last Offers now to be made on the Part of her Majesty, for re-establishing a perfect Union with this State should not be accepted. That Reflection on what had pass'd might serve to prevent Inconveniencies for the future; seeing the Refusal to agree to the Suspension of Arms,

propos'd on the Part of her Majesty, might have brought Ruine on this State, and had actually cost them too dear; and that there was Cause to fear much greater Evil, in case their High Mightinesses should now refuse to come to a Resolution to conclude the Peace jointly with her Majesty.

The said Earl of Strafford further represented, That he was commanded by her Majesty to return an Answer to the last Propositions or Overture made by their High Mightinesses touching Peace: That the said Propositions or Overture contained one Point which is contrary to the Engagements wherein her Majesty had before entred, as their High Mightinesses had been before informed, namely, That Sicily shall be given to the Duke of Savoy: That as to some other Points, there are at present insurmountable Obstacles risen, which might have been got over had not so strong Opposition been made to her Majesty's Measures, and had not her Majesty been constrained to agree separately to a Suspension of Arms.

That every one must needs be sensible, that the Irresolution of this State had been attended by very unhappy Accidents; and that therefore her Majesty was very desirous they would at length come to fix upon some pro-
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positions, which might be reasonable in themselves, and of such a Nature, that in the unlucky Conjunction wherein Affairs now stand they might be obtained of France.

That what is abovementioned being the Answer which her Majesty had thought fit to make to their High Mightinesses last Propositions or Overture, her Majesty had given him the said Earl of Strafford Permission to declare further, that he well knew her Majesty was determined to insist upon, and even to procure from France, the Cession of Tournay, to strengthen the Barrier of this State with a Place of so great Importance; but that he the said Earl knowing this to be her Majesty's firm Intention, knew likewise, that her Majesty's Conduct in this Matter would wholly depend upon that of this State; and that after the making so considerable a Step in favour of this State, it was expected, that this State on their Part should forthwith concur with her Majesty in concluding the Peace, without seeking new Objections, and without making other Demands; and that as soon as this State shall declare themselves in an authentick Manner, so that her Majesty can depend upon it, then her Majesty will cause a Declaration to be made in full Congress, that the Article of the Cession of Tournay shall be one of the Conditions of Peace; and a Condition *sine qua non*.

That he was likewise to inform their High Mightinesses, that his Majesty the King of France had made very strong Instances for his Ally the Elector of Bavaria, and that the least which his said Majesty pretended to ask for him was, That the said Elector shall continue in Possession of Luxembourg, Namur, and Charleroy, Subject however to the Terms of the Barrier for this State, till the said Elector be restored to his Electorate of Bavaria, exclusive of the Upper Palatinate, and be placed in the Rank and Dignity of Ninth Elector.

That besides, the King of France will propose that the Kingdom of Sardina be given to the said Elector, for effacing by the Title of King, the Disgrace and Mortification of being degraded from his Rank and Elector. That her Majesty judged that this Point may be granted, that so

the Possession of Tournay may be secured to this State and a Peace made, which will be safe and lasting.

That he was also to representing their High Mightinesses, in her Majesty's Name, that Her Majesty was not only desirous to re-establish, but likewise to maintain an intire Union between her Majesty and this State, and that her Majesty hoped and assuredly believ'd, that their High Mightinesses were of the same Sentiments with her in this Matter; that it was therefore necessary, without any loss of Time, to remove all that this State may seem to have gain'd, either to the immediate Prejudice, or to the future Danger of Her Majesty's and her Kingdoms Interests.

That he had Orders to inform their High Mightinesses on this Occasion, That he had brought with him a Plan of a new Treaty of Succession and Barrier, and must insist, that this Treaty might be signed before the Conclusion of the Peace.

That upon a Discussion of the several Articles of the now existing Barrier Treaty, he would make appear to the Ministers of this State, that therein many Things are inserted, which in England are look'd upon as disadvantageous to her Majesty's Subjects, and which certainly cannot be reconciled either to the Letter or to the design of the Grand Alliance; nor are conformable to any Principles upon which the present Confederacy was made and the present War begun. That he would further shew, that the Alterations, Additions, and Omissions now proposed, are no other then such as are necessary to rectifie the Mistakes, and to explain what is dubious in the foresaid Treaty, and to fill up some Articles, which in the said Treaty were left open, and were to be settled by a further agreement which further agreement was never yet made; and lastly, to take away some Obstructions thence arising to the Commerce of Great Britain, and to remedy yet greater Evils which there was but too much Reason to apprehend. That besides the particular Guaranty of the Succession and Barrier being thus explain'd, and made better, will not only be an additional Security for both Nations, and be cordially executed at what Time soever the Occasion shall happen, but will more than ever unite the two Nations in Friendship and Affection. Whereas, on the other Hand, this State cannot but expect a slow Execution of a Treaty, which according to the Sentiments of the British Nation, has been declar'd dishonourable and disadvantageous to it: That to pretend to hold the said Nation under an Engagement of such a Nature as this,

can have no other effect than to nourish Jealousy and Misunderstanding, which, one time or other, may break out in an open Rupture.

That among the Terms of the new Plan, the 4th Article of the Treaty of Barrier imported, That her Majesty consented to this State's putting Garrisons, providing, changing, augmenting or diminishing them, as they should think fit, into the following places, namely, Furnes, Fort Knocque, Ipres, Menin, the Town and Castle of Tournay, Mons, Charleroy, the Town and Castle of Namur, the Castle of Ghent, the Forts Pearl, Philip, and Dimm, that Fort St. Dhona being joined to the Fortifications of Sluys shall be yielded in Propriety to this State; and that the Fort of Radenhuyfen on this Side of Ghent shall be razed.

That in the 9th Article 'tis Stipulated, that all the Revenues of the Places to be yielded up by France, which did not belong to the Crown of Spain at the Time of the Death of King Charles II. shall be given to this State, towards maintaining the Barrier, except only so much as is necessary for the civil Government of the said Towns, Places and Castellanies, as also a Million of Guilders yearly out of the clearest Revenues of the rest of the Spanish Netherlands!

That what relates to Bon, Huy, and Liege, shall be settled with the Ministers of the Emperor and Empire; but that her Majesty's Sentiment was, That the first of those Places should be garrisoned by the Imperialists, and the other two by this State.

That Lastly, Notwithstanding all the Pro-
vocations and all the Delays on the Part of this State, the Queen had hitherto kept the Negotiation open, that her Majesty thought she had now retarded it long enough, and possibly too long in good Policy. That therefore the Orders which Her Majesty now made by him the Earl of Strafford in Quality of her Ambassador and Plenipotentiary were her ultimate Resolutions; and that this was the last Time she would address her self to their High Mightinesses, in case they should form new Delays, and not answer her Majesty's good Intentions for this State's own Interests.

That in the mean while her Majesty had ordered him, the Earl of Strafford, in Testimony of the entire Confidence which she has in their High Mightinesses, to represent That her Majesty had judged her self obliged, not only in good Policy, but likewise in Consideration of the great Services which the Duke of Savoy has done for the common Cause, and of the Danger to which he was exposed by his firm Adherence thereto, to take Care not only for his Security, but likewise for his Grandeur, by procuring for him Sicily, and the Tracts of Country on this Side the Alps, which are necessary to secure Exilles and Fenestrelles, and to cover Piemont. That his Succession after that of K. Philip is acknowledged, by the Renunciation: That her Majesty desired the Concurrence of this State in all that has been promised to his Royal Highness; and that her Majesty desired likewise, That this State should joyn with her to oblige the Emperor to a Neutrality for Italy, and to withdraw his Troops from Catalonia: And that her Majesty was resolved to make that Neutrality; a Condition of transporting the said Troops, which her Majesty would do at her own Expence; seeing without that Neutrality the Emperor might disturb all Italy, and particularly the Duke of Savoy, on Account of his Treaty of the Year 1703; one of the Imperial Ministers having already threatened a Minister of the Duke of Savoy therewith, which would certainly engage the Queen and this State in the Troubles and Wars of Italy: Then the said Earl of Strafford communicated to them, the said Deputies, an Answer, on the Part of her Majesty, to the last Memorial of the Emperor's Minister in England, by which her Majesty's Sentiments in this Matter were confirm'd.

The E. of Strafford further represented, That her Majesty being inform'd of the present Disorders in the Spanish Netherlands, had sent over the E. of Orrery hither, to redress them, to concert thereupon, with the Deputies of this State, and to resume the Administration in common with their High Mightinesses Deputies, and to keep the same till the Emperor shall accept
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the said Netherlands on the Conditions which the Queen and their High Mightinesses shall agree upon for yielding them up to him: Adding hereto, that the E. of Orrery had Orders not to do any Thing in this Affair, but according as he should find a Disposition here to act in Concert with the Queen.

After this the said E. of Strafford repeated briefly the Substance of his Discourse pressing for a speedy Resolution, whether this State is willing or not to sign the Peace jointly with her Majesty immediately and without any Delay; for otherwise her Majesty would be obliged to sign her Peace, without waiting for this State to come into it, longer than a Fortnight or Three Weeks at farthest. That her Majesty assuring herself this State will not delay to conclude the Peace with her, will procure Tournay for them, which, with many other Places, were not to be expected from France if the Queen should sign her Peace separately. That the Plan of Peace was very near the same with that contained in her Majesty's Speech: Adding thereto, That her Majesty had judged it necessary, for the greater Security of the Barrier, that this State should have a Garison in Mons, as well as in other Places of the Barrier.

That her Majesty had endeavoured to prevail with France to yield up Conde, but that her Efforts to that End had prov'd ineffectual.

That as to the Empire, there would be no Alteration in what is contained in the said Speech

relating thereto: nor in any Thing with Respect to the Emperor, only that Sardinia shall be given to the Elector of Bavaria; and that the D. of Savoy shall have Sicily. That her Majesty is very desirous to have the Concurrence of this State in all that relates to that Duke as well as to the Elector of Bavaria, and to oblige the Emperor to consent to the Neutrality of Italy, and to withdraw his Troops from Catalonia.

That she further desired, That the Plenipotentiaries of this State at Utrecht might be furnished with full Powers, to conclude forthwith the new Treaty of Barrier: And that above all her Majesty required their High Mightinesses speedy and positive Resolution and Answer, for bringing this great Negotiation to an End, settling a good and firm Peace, and renewing a perpetual Friendship and Union between her Majesty's Kingdoms and this State.

In Conclusion, the said Earl of Strafford gave into the Hands of the Register Bagel, a Copy of the Project of the new Treaty of Succession and Barrier, mentioned in his Propositions, saying, That tho' he was commanded to communicate it jointly with the Lord Bishop of Bristol to their High Mightinesses Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, yet he was willing to deliver it here, that thereby Time might be saved, and that their High Mightinesses might the sooner give Instructions to their Plenipotentiaries thereupon.

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